

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0093] of Applicant's specification with the following paragraph:

For embodiments of FIG. 4, the V-bit 424 for a departure time in table 420 is de-asserted when the packet is selected for departure, which in turn allows priority encoder 406 to select the row 422 in table 420 for replacement with a new departure time for a new packet. However, for embodiments of FIG. 9, the departure time of a packet selected for transmission is needed to calculate the departure time of the next packet in the same flow, and therefore should be retained after the packet departs. Thus, the departure time for the most recently received packet for a flow should be retained unless the packet is the last packet in the flow. Accordingly, for some embodiments of FIG. 9, the last packet of a flow can include a termination bit that indicates the packet is the terminal packet in the flow. The termination bit can be used to override and de-assert the M-bit for the last packet in the flow, and then priority encoder 406 can generate the NFA in response to V-bits 424 and M-bits 912. For one embodiment, priority encoder 406 can be configured to consider corresponding rows 910 in CAM device 902 and rows 422 in table 420 only if the corresponding V-bit is de-asserted and the corresponding M-bit is de-asserted.